

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EA-06 ARA-06 CIAE-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 PM-03 /047 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:CLSTERMER:CB

APPROVED BY IO:JABAKER

EA/K:FMISCH

ARA/LA:MBOVA

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R 030217Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 165786

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UNGA, KS, KN, CS, PE, AR

SUBJECT: KOREA CORE GROUP CONSULTATIONS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4222

1. BOTH DEPARTMENT AND USUN WERE SURPRISED AT ASSUMPTION REACHED BY ROK COUNSELOR IN BUENOS AIRES. SINCE RECEIPT OF REFTEL, ROK MISSION IN NEW YORK HAS COME UP WITH MORE PLAUSIBLE EXPLANATION OF PURPOSE OF BUENOS AIRES MEETING. ACCORDING TO ROK SOURCES IN SAN JOSE, NORTH KOREANS APPROACHED COSTA RICAN AMBASSADOR MONGE AND MINISTER GRANADOS WITH INVITATION FOR COSTA RICAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO VISIT PYONGYANG. THIS INVITATION REPORTEDLY WAS FORWARDED TO SAN JOSE WITH RECOMMENDATION THAT IT BE TRANSMITTED TO COSTA RICAN PARLIAMENT. HOWEVER, COSTA

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RICAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HELD UP INVITATION; THEREUPON

AMBASSADOR MONGE SENT ANOTHER INVITATION DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENT. AS RESULT, HE REPORTEDLY INCURRED DISFAVOR OF COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. STATUS OF INVITATION AT PRESENT IS UNKNOWN.

2. THOUGH CONTACTS FOR ABOVE REASON COULD BE INTERPRETED AS WORKING AGAINST CORE GROUP INTERESTS, AS ROK EMBASSY COUNSELOR KIM IN BUENOS AIRES SUGGESTS, IT HARDLY FOLLOWS

THAT COSTA RICANS SHOULD BE BARRED FROM FURTHER PARTICIPATION IN CORE GROUP MEETINGS. COSTA RICAN REPRESENTATIVE TO CORE GROUP HAS ATTENDED LAST TWO MEETINGS IN NEW YORK AND HAS SHOWN COPIES OF LETTERS TO USUN AND OTHERS THAT FONMIN FACIO SENT TO HIS COUNTERPARTS IN ARGENTINA, PANAMA AND PERU TO PROVE THAT ACTION AS PROMISED HAD BEEN TAKEN. COSTA RICAN EMBASSIES, HOWEVER, MAY NOT HAVE RECEIVED CLEAR INSTRUCTIONS ON CONVENING LOCAL CORE GROUP MEETINGS THEREBY NECESSITATING DESIGNATION OF ALTERNATE CONVENOR.

3. FOR USUN: YOU MAY WISH TO CHECK WITH ROK AND JAPANESE MISSIONS TO CORE GROUP TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE IS ANY FURTHER CONCERN ON THEIR PART ABOUT COSTA RICAN PARTICIPATION IN CORE GROUP ACTIVITIES. IF THERE IS NONE, DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT ISSUE NEED NOT BE PURSUED FURTHER.

4- FOR SAN JOSE: AT YOUR DISCRETION, YOU MAY WISH TO APPRISE FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO OF SITUATION. KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL UNIFICATION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE165786
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CLSTERMER:CB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760258-1082
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760791/aaaadcpn.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 BUENOS AIRES 4222
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREA CORE GROUP CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, KS, KN, CS, PE, AR, UNGA
To: BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006